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Dear

CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Report of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st. DECEMBER, 1956



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YEAR 1956

To:

The Crediton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year.

Area = = = = 93,370 acres

Population = = = = 9,800

Number of inhabited houses = = = 3,200

Rateable value (1st. October) = £64,777

Product of a penny rate = £138-19-3.944

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Live Births - Legitimate	40	29	69
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Illegitimate	-	1	1
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Still Births - Legitimate	-	-	-
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Illegitimate	-	-	-
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Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population			7.14
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2. DEATHS

Deaths from all causes	40	26	66
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DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
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Other Puerperal Causes	-	-	-
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Legitimate	-	-	-
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Illegitimate	-	-	-
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS

Legitimate	-	-	-
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Illegitimate	-	-	-
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Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
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Deaths from Whooping Cough(all ages)	-	-	-
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Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	-	-	-
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3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Measles	32	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) NURSING SERVICE

Midwives

(b) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Health Visitors

(c) MIDWIFERY

General Practitioners and Midwives

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinics at Newcombes, Crediton and at M orchard Bishop

(e) TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES

Investigations at Ivybank, Exeter, treatment at Hawkmoor Chest Hospital. V.D. Clinic at R.D. & E. Hospital, Exeter

(f) AMBULANCES

Services

(g) FOOD POISONING

Investigations at County Laboratory

(h) LABORATORY WORK

County Laboratory and Department of Pathology, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

L.N. JACKSON, B.A., D.M., B.CH. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health Crediton Rural Area



Report of the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor for the year ending 31st. December, 1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1956.

Designation.

This year the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956 came into force. The new designation of Public Health Inspector now apply to all officers previously known as Sanitary Inspector. In my opinion the change is long overdue. We all know that the word "sanitary", to the vast majority of the public, has a meaning that is inappropriate to the complex duties of the present day inspector.

HOUSING

The number of houses erected is lower than last year but the number of existing houses improved is slightly higher.

NEW HOUSES.

15 Council Houses were erected, 11 at Newton St. Cyres and 4 at Nymet Rowland. The lowering of the subsidy and the raising of the interest rate was mainly responsible for the decrease in new housing.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 356.

Houses erected by Private Enterprise was 7.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Four houses were demolished under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT.

A further extension of mains by the North Devon Water Board enabled two houses at East Village, Sandford to be provided with mains water. Mains water is not yet available at East Leigh, Coldridge, and water has again been hauled to the Council Houses here because of shortage.

At Barris, Lapford, the twelve pre-war houses were provided with new concrete paths around and approaching the houses. Much excavation and re-alignment was necessary together with new steps and surface water drainage. A considerable length of the water service piping also had to be renewed and deepened. This is the result of the fallacy of price cutting to get the original house Tenders accepted by the Ministry.

The rota system of external painting was accelerated this year and 88 houses were painted. The majority of these were of pre-war



construction and the repairs necessary in connection with painting were considerable.

Extension of electric service mains by the South Western Electricity Board enabled the Council to wire three houses at East Leigh, Coldridge and two at Yeo Ford. These, together with twelve at Yeo Ford which were wired when constructed, were all connected to the electricity main.

While last year no damage to Council property by frost was experienced, in February of this year the damage was greater than in 1954 and some 134 houses were affected. The severe weather came with very little warning and a great deal of the damage was done before tenants took precautions.

In November of this year, all Council House Tenants were circularised with a list of precautions to be taken to prevent damage to water pipes, hot water cylinders, flushing cisterns, ball valves and W.C. pans.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Owners of property are now beginning to realise that they cannot obtain Grants from the Council for minor improvements which alone would not bring the properties up to the required standard. The number of informal applications has therefore dropped. 31 such applications were received and dealt with. 12 formal applications were made, 10 of these were approved in respect of 13 dwellings, 1 was withdrawn and 1 was refused.

Approved expenses were £9,531-0-0d., Grants authorised £3,646-0-0d. All approved schemes were proceeded with.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number Licensed during the year was 23. One increase on last year.

#### BUILDING BYELAWS

The number of applications continues to drop. 50 applications were made, 48 were approved and 2 refused.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The applications received were only a little over one half of the number received last year, the number being 50. 41 applications were approved and 9 refused.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Progress made by the North Devon Water Board was not so great as had been anticipated because of restrictions on Capital Expenditure, and very little additional mains were laid in the District. The Chulmleigh to Chawleigh main was completed, and many private houses in this village were connected. The Council Houses which have an adequate



well supply will be connected next year.

The quantity of water taken by the Board from the Bugford Quarry source increased to 22,000,000 gallons this year.

Ministry of Agriculture Grant Schemes completed by the Board included Black Dog to Beech Hill Cross, Morchard Bishop; Chawleigh to Labbetts Cross, Lapford; and Coldridge to East Leigh.

Arrangements are being made to connect to the mains, the three Council Houses at East Leigh, Coldridge where shortage of water has been experienced.

NUMBER OF HOUSES DRAWING WATER FROM PUBLIC MAINS

Parish	Supplied into Houses	Est'd Population	From Standpipes	Est'd Population
Bow	50	154	60	230
Brushford	-	-	-	-
Chawleigh	37	120	-	-
Chariton Bishop	70	231	-	-
Chariton Fitzpaine	76	241	16	55
Glannaborough	-	-	-	-
Coldridge	28	89	7	20
Colebrooke	56	190	1	3
Crediton Hamlets	106	331	-	-
Down St. Mary	62	177	-	-
Eggesford	-	-	-	-
Hittisleigh	-	-	-	-
Kennerleigh	11	36	-	-
Lapford	116	401	10	36
Morchard Bishop	150	468	15	45
Newton St. Cyres	80	266	-	-
Nymet Rowland	26	88	-	-
Poughill	33	112	3	10
Puddington	19	45	-	-
Sandford	142	443	9	31
Shobrooke	50	173	-	-
Stockleigh English	5	15	-	-
Stockleigh Pomeroy	23	72	-	-
Thelbridge	38	119	-	-
Upton Hellions	-	-	-	-
Washford Pyne	19	65	-	-
Wembworthy	-	-	14	49
Woofardisworthy	29	91	-	-
Zeal Monachorum	37	140	3	10
Total	1263	4067	138	489



### WATER SAMPLE

One sample was taken from a well supply and found to be unsatisfactory. The two houses drawing water from this well, at Chawleigh were later vacated.

Sampling from the mains was done by the North Devon Water Board.

### FARM WATER SUPPLIES

Six Grant aided Ministry of Agriculture Schemes were submitted for observations, and were dealt with.

### SEWERAGE

The bringing of mains water to Chawleigh has aggravated the very unsatisfactory drainage disposal arrangements at this village, and the new sewerage scheme should be provided here without delay.

No work other than maintenance of existing sewers was carried out.

### FOOD AND DRUGS

#### Summary of Food Premises

Business	Total	Inspections	Comments
Bakehouses	7	4	Generally,
Butchers & Sausage Manufacturers	6	10	Proprietors are
Grocer & General Stores	43	31	willing to co-
Public Houses only	24	8	operate, and
Public Houses & Restaurants	3	2	have carried out
Food Factory	1	8	work when suggested.

#### Premises Registered or Licensed as Food Premises.

##### Milk..

No. of Registered Distributors of Milk	6
No. of Dealers with T.T. Licence	3
No. of Dealers with Pasteurised Licence	2
No. of Supplementary T.T. Licences	3
No. of Supplementary Pasteurised Licences	3
No. of Dairies Registered	0

##### Ice Cream.

No of Premises registered for manufacture	0
No of Premises registered for sale of pre-packed	27

##### Educational activity.

No clean food Guilds have been formed and no organised lectures on food hygiene have been given.



### Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

All meat and similar foods are disposed of at Messrs. Tellam's Fertilizer Processing Factory. Tinned food is destroyed in furnace fires by arrangement.

### Special examination of a stock or consignment of food.

None

### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947/52.

No premises in the District.

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/6.

No action - insufficient Staff.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are still two small village slaughterhouses and one large wholesale slaughterhouse licensed in the District.

The number of animals slaughtered has increased in the wholesale slaughterhouse at Copplestone. The hanging space available became quite inadequate and a new cooling and hanging hall has been provided. New plant has also been installed.

The Government's future policy is still uncertain and, until this is known, there is bound to be hesitation by slaughterhouse proprietors to carry out all the desired improvements. Likewise, as previously stated, Local Authorities are reluctant to engage additional staff for meat inspection, as this staff would become redundant should the Government decide to revert to centralised slaughtering so suddenly as they decided to abolish it in 1954.

As much meat inspection as is possible has been carried out, but the number of animals now slaughtered in this District is such that an additional Inspector is required to put his whole time to meat inspection and other work in connection with food premises.

During the year, a total of 9,504 carcases have been inspected, comprising 335 cattle, 7,581 sheep and lambs, 1,417 pigs and 171 calves.

The meat condemned was 20,804lbs. and the Offal condemned was 1,589lbs.

### LICENSED SLAUGHTERMEN

The number of Licences issued was 19.

### KNACKERS YARDS

The one Licensed Knacker's Yard at Messrs. Tellam's Fertilizer Factory at Cheriton Bishop was conducted satisfactorily.

### STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES

One Statutory Notice and 18 Informal Notices were served. All Notices were eventually complied with.

58 houses were repaired and improved as a result of informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts.



### COMPLAINTS

18 Complaints were received and the necessary action taken.

### PETROLEUM ACTS

This year, one new storage installation was licensed. The total number of Licences issued was 78.

### EXPLOSIVES ACT

The number of premises Registered for the storage of Explosives is 22. Except for one large store in connection with a quarry, the others are in respect of Fireworks and Cartridges only.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

There is nothing new to report. The collection is by Contract. All villages and hamlets, and a large portion of the remaining area is covered by a monthly collection. Most of the refuse is disposed of at the Council's Bugford Tip, but occasionally, pits of low lying land privately owned are filled at the request of the Owners.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council, after many deferments of consideration, finally decided not to engage a full time Rodent Operator. Existing arrangements whereby the D.A.E.C. are asked to advise on treatment or other work necessary at agricultural premises, will continue.

To assist occupiers of premises, the Council decided, towards the end of the year, to operate the scheme under which occupiers of all types of premises can obtain supplies of ready mixed Warfarin from the Council. Occupiers of private premises to obtain it free, and all other premises to be supplied at cost price. The scheme will be put into operation early in 1957.

Although no organised inspection was made during the year, the staff of the Department when visiting premises for other purposes, took into consideration any infestation.

1,986 premises were so inspected, 1,320 of these being private dwellings, 366 farms, and 300 business premises.

6 complaints were received, 3 from private householders, 2 from farms, and 1 from business premises. All were inspected. 3 major infestations and 2 minor infestations were found and dealt with.

One Notice under Section 4 of the Act was served in respect of farm premises. The Notice was complied with.



## INSPECTIONS, VISITS, ETC.

The Inspections, Visits, Interviews, and Meetings carried out or attended by the Department during the year are summarised below :-

### PUBLIC HEALTH.

Building Byelaws	=	=	=	193
Cowsheds	=	=	=	41
Complaints	=	=	=	88
Disinfections	=	=	=	0
Disfestations	=	=	=	4
Drains	=	=	=	106
Moveable Dwellings	=	=	=	18
Refuse Collection and Disposal			=	37
Schools	=	=	=	4
Sewers and Disposal	=	=	=	33
Water Supplies - General			=	27
do    do    - Farm	=	=	=	6
Water Samples	=	=	=	1

### HOUSING.

Council Houses	=	=	=	5002
Housing Acts	=	=	=	131
Improvement Grants	=	=	=	88
Overcrowding	=	=	=	0
Public Health Acts	=	=	=	83

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT

= = = 102

### FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food Premises	=	=	=	49
Ice Cream Premises	=	=	=	19
Knackers Yards	=	=	=	3
Slaughterhouses & Meat Inspection			=	138
Public Houses	=	=	=	10

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

= = = 28

### PETROLEUM ACTS

= = = 61

### EXPLOSIVES ACTS

= = = 10

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

= = = 35

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Sec. 50)

= = = 0

### INTERVIEWS, MISC. INSPECTIONS, ETC.

= = = 1300

### MEETINGS

= = = 109

S.M. PERRIAM, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Surveyor and  
Public Health Inspector.





